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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 /069 W
----------023385 210847Z /20
R 210655Z JUN 77
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4692
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1026

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT IZ
SUBJECT: KURDISH DISSIDENCE--ASSASSINATION OF IRAQI OFFICIAL IN BAGHDAD

1. IRAQI GOVERNMENT ACCORDED FULL HONORS TO OTHMAN MOHAMMED FAIQ, AN IRAQI KURDISH OFFICIAL WHO WAS ASSASSINATED IN BAGHDAD ON JUNE 16. SENIOR GOVERNMENT AND BAATH PARTY MEMBERS ATTENDED HIS FUNERAL. FAIQ, A LONG-TIME ASSOCIATE OF THE BAATH AND A MEMBER OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WAS STRUCK DOWN AS HE LEFT HIS OFFICE, THE KURDISH CULTURE AND PUBLICATION HOUSE. THE ASSASSINATION TOOK PLACE IN BROAD DAYLIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE MINISTRY OF TRADE, WHICH LIKE ALL MAJOR GOVERNMENT OFFICES HAS A POLICE GUARD. THE PERPETRATOR HAS NOT BEEN APPREHENDED.
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2. THIS INCIDENT, THE FIRST INDICATION THAT WHAT ARE THOUGHT TO BE KURDISH DISSIDENTS CAN STRIKE AT KURDS WORKING FOR THE REGIME IN THE PRESUMED SAFETY OF BAGHDAD, HAS LED TO GREAT NERVOUSNESS AMONG IRAI OFFICIALS. ELITE ARMY COMMANDOS HAVE APPEARED AT MAJOR GOVERNMENT OFFICES TO BOLSTER THE USUAL GUARDS. THE MURDER ABOUT

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ONE WEEK AGO, PROBABLY RESULTING FROM AN AFFAIR OF HONOR,
OF THE DEAN OF THE BAGHDAD UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF LAW
AND POLITICS, HAS CONTRIBUTED TO GENERAL UNEASINESS.

3. SCANTY REPORTS FILTERING DOWN FROM THE NORTH
SUGGEST THAT KURDISH DISSIDENTS ARE STILL AT LARGE
IN DOHUK AND SULAYMANIYA PROVINCES, WITH OCCASIONAL
SNIPER FIRE REPORTED OCCURRING EVEN IN SULAYMANIYA CITY.
SITUATION IN TAMEEM (KURKUK) AND ARBIL PROVINCES IS
REPORTED AS CALM.

4. COMMENT: FAIQ ASSASSINATION IS OMINOUS SIGN THAT
KURDISH DISSIDENTS MIGHT TURN TO URBAN VIOLENCE.
INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED BY REGIME'S HEAVY USE OF MILITARY
FORCE IN THE NORTH, KURDISH IRREGULARS ALSO RISK LOSING
POPULAR BASE AS CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFERS MORE SOPHISTICATED
INDUCEMENTS TO KURDS WILLING TO BE COOPERATIVE. FAIQ
WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE WELL INTEGRATED KURDISH
INTELLECTUALS WHO HAVE OFFICIAL POSITIONS, OFTEN VERY
HIGH ONES, IN THE GOVERNMENT. HIS PARTICULAR JOB WAS
CONNECTED WITH RECENT MOVES BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO
OFFER GREATER USE OF THE KURDISH LANGUAGE AND OTHER
CULTURAL CARROTS TO KURDISH POPULACE. GOI REACTION TO
FAIQ ASSASSINATION WILL PROBABLY BE INCREASED HARASSMENT
OF SUSPECTED KURDISH DISSIDENTS AND HARSH TREATMENT
OF ANY KURDS FOUND CARRYING UNAUTHORIZED WEAPONS.
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DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT ARREST OF USINT'S
KURDISH DRIVER (BAGHDAD 1005 NOTAL) OCCURED PRIOR TO
FAIQ ASSASSINATION.
MACK

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: KURDISH DISSIDENCE--ASSASSINATION OF IRAQI OFFICIAL IN BAGHDAD
TAGS: PINT, IZ, (FAIQ, OTHMAN MOHAMMED)
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